

- Fentanyl patches should only be used in patients who require a total daily dose of other opiates equaling at least 25 mcg per hour of fentanyl patch.
- Patients using fentanyl patches may require short-acting opiate supplements until fentanyl efficacy has set in or during fentanyl patch use for episodes of breakthrough pain.
- Fentanyl patch dose modifications are done based on the average daily use of a supplemental analgesic.
- Dose changes are not made prior to 72 hours after initial patch application and not prior to 6 days after a dose change.

### Pharmacist Order Review

- ALL fentanyl patch orders are reviewed by a pharmacist prior to dispensing. Review includes:
  - Appropriate indication for use (severe to moderate chronic pain)
  - Opiate-tolerance
  - Appropriate starting dose based on dosing history (medication reconciliation and validation of home dose)
  - Potential drug interactions and concomitant opiate use
  - Dose changes to ensure that the strength is not changed prior to 72 hours after initiation or 6 days after dose increase.
- Orders for fentanyl patches with doses of 125 mcg/hour are validated with prescriber prior to order verification by the pharmacist. This is done to avoid potential medication errors related to decimal points.
- Fentanyl order review by the pharmacist is documented in the clinical intervention/consultation data base

## SECTION F – DRUG SHORTAGES

### F1. Weekly Shortage Memo

The pharmacy department emails out a weekly medication shortage list. This occurs every Thursday and is used to communicate any new medication shortages, as well as the status of previous medication shortages. Please use this memo to stay informed regarding the status of these medications, as they change weekly. It can be accessed via HenryNet.

#### Weekly Drug Shortage Update

Dear Clinical Staff,

Please find the standard week's update on drug shortages below:

[READ WEEKLY UPDATE](#)

